



The Company Journal ***and "The Feederline"***

Fire Department News
Cambridge, Massachusetts

From the desk of
Chief Gerald R. Reardon

Issue #35
Monday, 3 October 2005



Second Alarm Box 2-614

The box was transmitted at 0238 hours on 20 Sept. 2005 for 107 thru 109 Museum Street.

- photo by ***Russ Windman***





Photos above: Ladder Company #1 (using Ladder 5) opening the roof.

- photos above by **DFC Dan Turner**, Fire Prevention

What's New

Sometime around the first of the year, 2005/2006, the Cambridge Fire channel 1 simulcast will move from 154.355 to 471.3125. The 154.355 transmission will cease when the changeover is made. Cambridge Fire has been broadcasting on 154.355 since 1974. For the simulcasts of the 800 radio system channel 1, CFD will simulcast on 471.3125 and Cambridge Police will simulcast on 470.3125. This repeater changeover will be partially funded by a UASI Homeland Security grant.

A federal FEMA Firefighter Assist Grant is also pending to purchase and install cross-band repeaters in our mutual aid company vehicles. These repeaters will improve unit-to-unit communications among the CFD units operating and also will allow the mutual aid vehicle to be used as a local repeater on the incident community's radio frequency. The local

frequency can be selected from the vehicle and allow Cambridge companies to use and operate on the local frequency (ies.)

A federal grant is also pending to allow for the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). One set of turnout pants and coats will be purchased and issued to all members to replace the older of the two sets of pants and coats currently in use. The initial turnout gear was placed in service 10 years ago and is in need of replacement.

A UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) grant is also in place for the upgrade of the repeater system at the Galleria Mall which will allow for an all-channel in-building repeater system for all city agencies.

Tunnel Radio

Use **Channel 7** on our portable and mobile radios when traveling through or operating in the highway tunnels. Channel 7 is operable in the Ted Williams, the Tip O'Neil, the Liberty, the Sumner, and the Callahan Tunnels. Channel 14 will still be used for MBTA subway tunnel communications in the Cambridge subway system.

9-11 Memorial

On Sunday, September 11, 2005, Fire Department units throughout the city paused to remember the victims of the attacks on the United States at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and on the aircraft over Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001. Three hundred forty three firefighters were murdered in the attack on the World Trade Center.

Shown below is the remembrance at Headquarters, with Group 3 on duty. **Chief of Operations John O'Donoghue** (retired) and his wife joined the members. **FF Ken Souza** of the Rescue Company led the ceremonies.



- photo above by **Caitlin O'Donoghue**

Promotions and Assignments

Per G.O. #20 of 2005, effective Saturday, 3 September 2005:

Fire Captain **John J. Cotter** to Deputy Fire Chief, assigned to Division 2
Fire Lieutenant **Gregory M. Carter** to Fire Captain
Firefighter **Daniel M. Flaherty** to Fire Lieutenant, Pivot, Group 4

Commendations

Per G.O.s #21, 22, 23, and 24, 13 September 2005, the following members have been commended:

Firefighter Robert DeFrancisco for action at Incident #5002145, Box 16 of 1 September 2005, 300 Third Street
Fire Lieutenant William C. Hugh, Ladder Company #2 for meritorious conduct at Incident # 5001281, Box 2-215 of 6 August 2005, 17 Warren Street
Aide to Division 1/Firefighter Harold G. Rosenberger, Division 1 for meritorious conduct at Incident # 5001281, Box 2-215 of 6 August 2005, 17 Warren Street
Aide to Division 1/Firefighter Harold G. Rosenberger, Division 1 for bravery at Incident # 5001281, Box 2-215 of 6 August 2005, 17 Warren Street
Fire Lieutenant William C. Hugh, Ladder Company #2 for bravery at Incident # 5001281, Box 2-215 of 6 August 2005, 17 Warren Street
Firefighter Robert H. Degou, Ladder Company #2 for bravery at Incident # 5001281, Box 2-215 of 6 August 2005, 17 Warren Street
Firefighter Michael J. Dwyer, Ladder Company #2 (detailed from Ladder Company #1) for bravery at Incident # 5001281, Box 2-215 of 6 August 2005, 17 Warren Street
Fire Lieutenant Brian P. Higgins, Fire Investigation Unit for investigation as a result of Incident # 5001281, Box 2-215 of 6 August 2005, 17 Warren Street
Deputy Fire Chief Michael J. Morrissey, Fire Investigation Unit for investigation as a result of Incident # 5001281, Box 2-215 of 6 August 2005, 17 Warren Street

Transfers and Assignments

Per G.O. #25 of 2005, effective Sunday, 2 October 2005:

Fire Captain William J. Brathwaite from Squad 4 to Engine Company #1
Fire Captain Edward B. Morrissey from Engine Company #3 to Ladder Company #1

Fire Lieutenant Daniel M. Flaherty from Pivot, Group 4 to Squad 4

Firefighter Gary J. Gannon from Ladder Company #3 to Engine Company #9
Firefighter Barry S. Clinton from Ladder Company #3 to Engine Company #9

Fire Lieutenant Joseph L. Dynan, Engine Company #2 detailed to Engine Company #3 as Acting Fire Captain
Firefighter Jeffrey R. Howard, Engine Company #8 detailed to Engine Company #2 as Acting Fire Lieutenant

Out and About - Collapse Rescue Training

Rescue Company #1 participated in Collapse Rescue Training with the Boston Fire Department at the Moon Island Training Facility. Each group spent 3 full days in both classroom and practical hands-on training. Training included the making and setting up of exterior and interior shoring.









- photos above by **F.Lt. Sean White**, Rescue 1

Cambridge Firefighters Local 30 Summer Outing 2005 - Canobie Lake Park

On 3 August, 2005, the annual summer outing was held at Canobie Lake Park in Salem, NH.



Games for Kids of all ages



Pie Eating Contest



Mark Cunningham with sons, **Kevin and Brian**.



Galvin Murphy - Ringmaster, Wild Animal Trainer and Conservationist, and Social Director



Paul Gallagher and sons, **Paul and John**, took first place in the wheelbarrow race.



Carolyn Domond with nephew, **Cameron**



Connor and Chuck Anderson

- photos above by **F.Lt. Brian Gover**, Engine 5



Leanne Melendy, Audrey White, Nathan Landry, and Hannah Melendy



Audrey White



Victoria Landry and Audrey White

- photos above by **F.Lt. Sean White**, Rescue 1

From the Archives



The two photos above show Cambridge **Aerial Tower 1** (Ladder 1) operating at the conflagration in Lynn.
Aerial Tower 1 was a 1971 Sutphen, which saw much fire duty in its 14 years of service.

This is the Benton Shoe building.

Five engines and 2 trucks from Cambridge operated at this fire in Lynn.

- photos above by **Bill Noonan**



Standing: Joe Schifferdecker, Larry Hodgdon, Kevin Kelly, Bill McMahon, Bob Bell, Walter Grace, Bill Cantwell, Dan Turner, Jim Harrington, Richard Dahl, Ed Fowler, and Paul Mahoney.

Front row, sitting: Peter Regan, Jim Bergin, Bill Hugh, Andrew Murphy, Bob Paone, and John Watson.

The brotherhood 1979: This photo of Group 4 was taken in the 3rd floor kitchen of Headquarters in April of 1979. Only seven of the brothers above are still on the job. Five have since have passed away.

*- photo from the collection of **Walter Grace**, (Division 2, group 4)*

Have things really changed that much?

Engine Company #3 was organized in 1832 and has been providing continuous fire protection to the citizens of East Cambridge for over 173 years. Originally called **Niagara 3**, the company was the first in the city to convert from hand-drawn to horse-drawn.



Engine Company #3 circa 1896
Engine 3's 1886 hose wagon and 1872 Amoskeag 600 gpm steam pump



Engine 3's 1949 Pirsch in front of the old quarters at 35 3rd Street.



Engine 3's pump - 1949 Pirsch 1000 gpm



Engine 3's high-pressure wagon - the 1948 GMC/Robinson



Engine 3's pump, a 1977 Pirsch 1250 gpm, operating at a multiple alarm fire on First Street



Engine 3's current apparatus, the 1998 Pierce Saber 1250 gpm pump/500 gallon water tank
Engine 3 also has a 250 gpm dedicated foam pump/200 gallon foam tank.



Engine 3, Group 1 in 2005: **FF David George, FFOP Andrew Mello, F.Captain Edward Morrissey, FF William S.**

Dusablon.

- photos and information above from the collection of **Fire Captain Ed Morrissey**

Letters

September 20, 2005

Dear Deputy Chief Gelinas,

I wanted to say thank you to your men and department for knocking on doors and knocking down the flames so quickly. All of our neighbors, I know share the sentiment. The view from our bedroom last night was frightening; the response of your people was reassuring. I thought you might like to see a couple of your people in action below.

Regards,

Russ Windman
Museum St.
Cambridge MA 02138

(editor's note: The photograph taken by Mr.. Windman is seen at the top of this journal)

April 28, 2005
Lieutenant Stephen Boyle
Cambridge Fire Department
491 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Lieutenant Boyle:

On behalf of the Boston Public Health Commission's Childhood Injury Prevention Program, the Greater Boston SAFE KIDS Coalition, and the the BuckleUpBoston! Coalition, I would like to thank you for testifying in support of the booster seat legislation, House Bill 1896 on Wednesday, April 13th.

I truly appreciate your willingness to attend the hearing and deliver a moving and effective testimony on such short notice. Your testimony served as an instrumental first step as we work to pass this important legislation. As you know, the use of belt-positioning booster seats lower the risk of injury in crashes by 59% compared to the use of vehicle seat belts alone. House Bill 1896 will help to reduce injury and death by protecting all of the Commonwealth's children.

The children of Massachusetts are fortunate to have a leader like yourself on their side - I thank you for your support and your dedication to keeping them safe.

Sincerely,

Josephine Crisostomo

Childhood Injury Prevention Program

August 25, 2005

Chief Gerald Reardon,

National Night Out 2005 was a complete success and the event certainly surpassed our expectations. More than 3,000 people attended the event. The evening was filled with education, music, entertainment and lots of fun activities for families to enjoy. The goal of the evening is to empower people to work together in the fight against crime, violence, and drugs. Our hope is that these efforts will help keep our community safe for people to live and businesses to thrive. We are aware that the success of the event is attributed to the support given by your department and staff. We couldn't have done it without you and for this, we are truly grateful. The City of Cambridge has congratulated us on a job well done!

We share this congratulations with you, our strong supporter. Once again, thank you so much for continuing to support this much needed and important event. Our success certainly has been your success.

Sincerely,
Winn Residential

Abel Molina, Resident Service Coordinator

David Blumberg, Senior Property Manager

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of State Police
Framingham, Massachusetts 01702

August 30, 2005

Chief Gerald R. Reardon
Dear Cambridge Fire Department

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the use of the American Flag at the funeral of Vincent P. Cila.

As you know, the Department of State Police was greatly saddened to lose one of their own. Therefore, I am truly grateful for the use of your flag to honor the loss of Trooper Cila who died in the line of duty, and for those members of your department who participated in the funeral services.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Colonel Thomas G. Robbins
Superintendent

Second Alarm Box 2-215

Saturday August 6, 2005 was a very quiet, mild summer day. The serenity of the day was broken at 1214:54 hours when Box 215 was transmitted for a building fire at 17 Warren St. in East Cambridge. The first alarm assignment was Engine 3, 5 and 2, Ladder 2, 3, Squad 2 and Division 1. Division 1 responded from quarters and due to heavy radio traffic had traveled down Cambridge St. past Columbia before able to call fire alarm to report smoke showing from a distance. Arriving moments later on Warren Street to find heavy fire showing from the front second floor stairway window, DC Murphy reported establishing ICS and assuming Warren Street Command. A second alarm was struck immediately. The building was a three-story wood frame structure containing six rental units.

Engine 5 was ordered to go into deck gun operation to knock down the heavy overlapping fire. The closeness of exposures, the density of the area and the ferocity of the fire required a quick knockdown to prevent a conflagration. While Engine 5 was setting up, Ladder 2 began assisting Engine 3 in advancing a 2-1/2" attack line. Prior to getting the line into operation two high voltage power lines began arcing and then snapped. The firefighters immediately retreated to safety only to find the power lines had fallen on Ladder 2's truck and Engine 5's pump rendering them useless. The members regrouped and advanced the line from Engine 3 into the building. The second alarm companies were directed to begin an attack over ladders to the fire escapes in the rear of the structure. This building had only small balconies with a straight wall ladder as a fire escape. Lines were advanced into the all floors and the fire was quickly knocked down. Ladder 1 went to the roof and ventilated. Although other events of the fire that day presented other challenges to the fire department, our goal of a rapid knockdown, containment and finally extinguishment was achieved without fire spreading to other structures.

- DFC Frank Murphy, Division 1

Signal 10-15

The Chief of Department regrets to announce the death of **Fire Lieutenant George E. Bennett** of Engine Company #4, retired. Lt. Bennett was a United States Army veteran and was appointed to the Cambridge Fire Department reserve list on 2 May 1962. He reported to Drill School on 10 May 1964. On 26 May 1964, he was assigned to Engine Company #7. His other assignments were as follows:

23 June 1964	to Rescue Company #1
4 January 1970	to Engine Company #4
12 February 1978	promoted to Acting Fire Lieutenant, Engine Company #3
2 July 1978	to Engine Company #6
9 July 1978	promoted to Fire Lieutenant, Engine Company #6
16 September 1984	to Engine Company #7
1 July 1993	to Engine Company #4

George was born on 10 December 1934. He retired on 31 December 1999. Fire Lieutenant George E. Bennett died on 19 September 2005.

Condolences

Condolences to **F.Lt. Brian Gover** (Engine 5, Group 3) on the death of his aunt.

Condolences also to **FF Richard Shea** (Truck 2, Group 4) on the death of his son, **Richard, Jr.**

Condolences to **FF Aide Harold G. Rosenberger** (Division 1, Group 1) on the death of both his sister **Clare Chamberlain** and sister-in-law **Mary Anne Rollins**.

Condolences also to **DFC Jim Burns** (Tech Services) on the death of his uncle.

Lester Driscoll

The narrative about World War I veteran and Cambridge resident **Lester Driscoll** was published in Issue #34 of *The Company Journal*. Lester Driscoll is the grand-uncle of **Lorna Rutkauskas** (Headquarters Administrative Staff.)

MDA

To raise money for MDA, Cambridge Firefighters set up a voluntary toll booth on the Gilmore Bridge on the 22nd of July. Among the members participating were **FF. Steve Jeffres, F.Lt. Pat Haggerty, FF Ken Correia, FF Bill Dusablon, F.Lt. Bill Hugh, and F.Capt. Ed Morrissey**. Nearly \$5000 was collected.

Hurricane Katrina Relief

On Thursday, 8 September, members of Cambridge Firefighters Local 30 IAFF conducted a fill the bucket for Hurricane Relief on the Gilmore Bridge. On Friday, 9 September, members again conducted a fill the boot/fill the bucket drive at MBTA subway stations throughout the city. Approximately \$4000 was collected. A "Tip of the Helmet" to all the members who donated their time to participate. **Pat Haggerty** and **Craig Yearwood** also collected.



On Thursday, 8 September, members of Cambridge Firefighters Local 30 IAFF conducted a fill the boot for MDA on the Gilmore Bridge. From left to right: **FF Steve Jeffres, FF Jamie Ferreira, FF Bill Dusablon, FF Bob Degou, FF Kevin Correia, FF/PM , and F.Lt. Bill Hugh**



FF **Ken Correia** (Truck 2, Group 1) passes the bucket.



F.Lt. **Bill Hugh** (Truck 2, Group 1) accepts \$25 contribution from a passing motorist. In a little over 1 hour, Firefighters collected over \$1200.

- photos above by **F.Capt. Gerry Mahoney, LEPC**

Stats and Fires

During the month of **August, 2005**, **Engine 2** was the busiest company with **254 runs**. Engine 1 finished with 182 and Engine 5 with 156. **Trucks 1 and 3** were tied for busiest truck company with 180 runs each. **Rescue 1** finished the month with **146 runs**. **Division 1**, the busier division, finished with a total of **144 runs**, while Division 2 responded to 126 incidents. **Squads 2 and 4** completed August with **229 and 151 runs** respectively. There were 1087 emergency incidents during the month, which generated 2646 emergency responses. There were 4 building fires, 28 inside fires, and 43 fires of all categories.

During the month of **September, 2005**, **Engine 2** was again the busiest company with **251 runs**. Engine 1 finished with 189 and Engine 5 with 155. **Truck 1** was the busiest truck with 186 runs. Truck 4 finished with 142. **Rescue 1** finished the month with **181 runs**. **Division 1** finished with a total of **131 runs**. **Squads 2 and 4** completed September with **217 and 146 runs** respectively. There were 1036 emergency incidents during the month, which generated 2580 emergency responses. There were 9 building fires, 21 inside fires, and 32 fires of all categories.

Second Alarm Box 2-614: On 20 September 2005, at 0238 hours, Box 614 was transmitted for the fire at 107 thru 109 Museum Street, a 3 1/2 story, wood-frame, OMD. Arriving with heavy fire and smoke showing, companies quickly protected exposures, completed searches, and contained and knocked down this fire. First alarm companies included Engines 4, 5, 1, and Somerville 3; Trucks 1 and 4; Rescue 1; Squad 4; and Division 2. The working fire was ordered at 0244. The second alarm was ordered at 0248. Seven engines, 3 trucks, 1 rescue, 2 squads, 2 division chiefs, a Somerville DFC; and staff and support units operated at this fire. **DFC Bob Scott** of Division 2 was the incident commander.

Retirees

Join the Retired Firefighters Breakfast Club. The club meets at 0730 hours at Andy's Diner (across from Engine 4's house) in North Cambridge. Call John O'Donoghue at 781-483-9217 or e-mail him at jod3502@aol.com for dates and information. Stay in touch. Have breakfast with good company.

Mark Your Calendar

Upcoming Events:

Sunday October 9, 2005 through Saturday October 15, 2005

National Fire Prevention Week- This years' theme is "Use Candles With Care-When You Go Out, Blow Out"

Monday October 31, 2005

1400 to 1600 - Halloween Open House at all Cambridge Fire Stations. Glow sticks, Trick-or-Treat bags and candy for children.

Thursday November 10, 2005

Kickoff of annual Toys-for-Tots campaign. New un-wrapped toys may be dropped off at any Cambridge Fire Station until Thursday December 15, 2005. Program is in conjunction with the USMC Reserves providing toys to children throughout New England.

The **Boston Firefighters Annual Road Race** is scheduled for Sunday, **16 October 2005**. This 10-K race starts and ends at Florian Hall in Dorchester.

IFBA: The annual convention of **The International Fire Buffs Association** will be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts in **August of 2007**. The convention site will be the Royal Sonesta Hotel.

Annual Firefighters Ball

The 118th Annual Ball of the Cambridge Firemen's Relief Association will be held on Saturday, **6 May 2006** (group 3 on duty) at the Burlington Marriott Hotel. Note the new Spring date! Who knows, it might be a nice warm spring night. A full notice will appear in the next issue of The Company Journal.

Louisiana 1927

What has happened down here is the winds have changed
Clouds roll in from the north and it started to rain
Rained real hard and rained for a real long time

Six feet of water in the streets of Evangeline

The river rose all day
The river rose all night
Some people got lost in the flood
Some people got away alright
The river has busted through clear down to Plaquemines
Six feet of water in the streets of Evangeline

Louisiana, Louisiana
They're tryin' to wash us away
They're tryin' to wash us away
Louisiana, Louisiana
They're tryin' to wash us away
They're tryin' to wash us away

- Randy Newman/Marcia Ball

"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

- President Abraham Lincoln, 1860



-

Information

Please submit any information or narratives for inclusion the ***Company Journal***.

E-mail list

If any retirees or friends of the Cambridge Fire Department wish to be added to the ***Company Journal*** e-mail list, send us the e-mail address!

Websites

Visit the Cambridge Fire Department website at www.Cambridgefire.org

Visit the the Cambridge Retirement Board website at <http://www.cambridgeretirementma.gov/index.asp>

**REMEMBER THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN OUR ARMED SERVICES
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THEY ARE PROTECTING OUR COUNTRY,
OUR LIBERTY, AND OUR FREEDOM.
THANK OUR VETERANS!**



**Brothers and Sisters,
STAY BRAVE!
STAY VIGILANT!
STAY SAFE!**
